

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, due to an error by the House Tally Clerk, I was incorrectly shown as voting "no" on Rollcall No. 103, and "not voting" on Rollcall No. 104. I was present during both Rollcall votes and during voting for Rollcall No. 103, I voted "yes", and during Rollcall No. 104, I voted "no". I ask that this statement be entered into the RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to other commitments, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: June 22, 2000: Rollcall vote 315, on the Campbell amendment to H.R. 4690, I would have voted nay; rollcall vote 316, on the Hinchey amendment to H.R. 4690, I would have voted nay; rollcall vote 317, on the Scott of Virginia amendment to H.R. 4690, I would have voted nay; and rollcall vote 318, on the DeGette amendment to H.R. 4690, I would have voted nay.

June 23, 2000: Rollcall vote 319, on the Waxman amendment to H.R. 4690, I would have voted nay; rollcall vote 320, on the Davis of Virginia amendment to H.R. 4690, I would have voted nay; and rollcall vote 321, on the Coble amendment to H.R. 4690, I would have voted aye.

INTRODUCING THE RONALD REAGAN RECOGNITION ACT OF 2000

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Ronald Reagan Recognition Act of 2000.

Recent news reports indicate that the Interior Department is moving toward a complete moratorium on future memorials in the area known as the Mall in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, we can argue the merits of that proposal, but one thing is clear: Under Article IV of the U.S. Constitution, Congress, not the Interior Department, has the authority to dispose of federal lands. A decision this important, about how, whether, and where American heros are memorialized on federal lands, should be made by, and in consultation with, Congress.

One other thing is very clear: One such American hero, who is deserving of recognition among our great American statesmen, is Ronald Wilson Reagan, 40th President of the United States.

Although President Reagan is, thankfully, still very much alive, he is not well. The scourges of Alzheimer's disease have greatly

diminished his once tremendous mind. I am sure all my colleagues join me in wishing President and Mrs. Reagan long lives and good health. But tomorrow is promised to no one.

We must not stand idly by and wait while the Interior Department eliminates the possibility of a future memorial to President Reagan, robbing future generations of Americans of the opportunity to recognize the tremendous contributions of this great American, and to do so in the midst of the other great Presidents and heros memorialized on the Mall.

We must not stand by and deprive this generation of Americans of the opportunity to honor President Reagan themselves, in this small way.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington Mall is the family album of the American people. It is where their heros are remembered, and where great accomplishments are celebrated. President Reagan is deserving of both honors.

Ronald Reagan is an American hero deserving of recognition by this and future generations of Americans and visitors to the Mall from around the world.

Future visitors to a Ronald Reagan Memorial on the Mall should be reminded that as President, Ronald Reagan initiated policies that won the cold war, protected and restored freedom and Democracy around the globe, lowered taxes on American citizens, tamed the economic threats of inflation and economic stagnation, and ushered in an unprecedented era of peace and prosperity across the nation, and his contributions merit permanent memorialization.

Future visitors to a Ronald Reagan Memorial on the Mall should be reminded that the legacies of President Reagan include restoring faith in our system of Democracy and capitalism, returning pride in being an American, and renewing the honor and decency of the American Presidency, and are deserving of national recognition.

Future visitors to a Ronald Reagan Memorial on the Mall should be reminded that the contributions of former President Reagan, and his status as a pre-eminent twentieth-century American statesman and one of the greatest American Presidents, merit and require a permanent memorialization alongside the other great American leaders memorialized on the Mall in Washington, DC.

To accomplish these goals, this bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to identify appropriate lands within the area designated as section 1 of the Mall in Washington, DC, as the location of a future memorial to former President Reagan, requires identification of a suitable location, and selection of a suitable design, authorizes raising private-sector donations for such a memorial, and creates a commission to assist in these activities.

Money spent on the memorial would be raised from private sector donors. A commission would be created to oversee the process. And a suitable site on the Mall would be selected, and marked as the "Future Site of the Ronald Reagan Memorial."

By statute, the memorial to President Reagan on the Mall will still not occur until 25 years after his death—hopefully long, long in the future. But we must begin the process now, while it is still possible.

Remembering that the policies of President Reagan are responsible for the peace and

prosperity we now enjoy is especially fitting now, while some national political figures are running around the country trying to take credit for the results. I find it a little like the rooster taking credit for the sunrise.

The many benefits of Ronald Reagan's policies of limited government, lower taxes, and a strong national defense are still very evident today. Those policies are why this nation is in the good shape we're in today.

The fact that some people seem to have forgotten this is the strongest argument yet to begin the steps toward creating this memorial.

I can think of no greater tribute, and no more fitting tribute, to a man who has done so much for his nation.

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, it is the least we can do.

THE CALLEEN WILDCATS

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Calallen Wildcats, the 2000 Texas High School Class 4-A Baseball Champions. In a herculean effort in the sixth inning of the final game they came from behind, sending the game into extra innings to win.

In the championship game, they fell behind, rallying to a tie in the sixth inning, sending the game into extra innings before winning the state championship. The young men who won this championship deserve great credit for holding together to bring home this important win. Some of the seniors on this winning team have been playing together since they were 5 years old, so they have been a team longer than most baseball teams have played together.

I am proud of the 4-A champs; these players kissed medals and fought back tears as they savored their win. This was the sixth time in the past eight years that the Wildcats made it to the state's final four teams, but this was the first to come home with the state Class 4-A title.

These young players played and enjoyed this series for themselves, the perfect ending to a season in which the Wildcats first won 38 games, then earned the No. 1 ranking in Texas and finally won a state championship. Calallen is the first South Texas team to win a state championship since Orange Grove claimed the 3-A title in 1994.

These young men didn't just play ball well. They had to be patient for years. They fell short of the title in 1998 and again in 1999, but the third time was a charm. Their game was canceled due to rain Friday. We have had a drought for years in South Texas, and the two other rain delays they sat through seemed pretty cruel. But they never gave up.

But when an opposing hitter grounded out, the Calallen Wildcats at long last became Class 4-A state champions in extra innings. Nothing, including the rain, could dampen the Wildcats fans' excitement. They waited through two rain delays. They stood and cheered the team on, even as rain poured down on the field and stadium.

When the Wildcats won, the joy was palatable as far away as the players' hometown. A WalMart employee got the call that Calallen

had won from a Kingsville manager who attended the game. She immediately made an announcement over the store loudspeaker and shoppers stopped to cheer, clap and wipe tears from their eyes. It was a beautiful moment.

This victory belongs to the entire community. They all pulled together, hoped together, and prayed together and the Calallen Wildcats came back to Corpus Christi as the State Champions. These guys learned the important lesson of knowing that champions must have patience, skill, and heart. They learned that victory comes from within.

I want to include the leadership of the school and the coaches in this victory: Superintendent Dr. James Warlick, Principal Mike Sandroussi, Athletic Director Phil Danaher, and Coaches Steve Chapman, Danny Fogg, Dough Edwards, and Mark Soto.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in offering our congratulations to a team of outstanding young men and outstanding young ball players, the 2000 Texas High School Class 4-A Baseball Champions.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4516) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this bill and the short-sighted cuts it makes to the budgets of the agencies and employees under the Subcommittee's jurisdiction.

There is a lot of smoke and mirrors in this bill. Even with the funding restored by the Manager's amendment, this bill is deficient in many critical areas. The bill's total appropriation is still \$9.8 million less than the current year's appropriation.

It would still leave the Congressional Research Service, an office that every Member of Congress relies upon to serve our constituents, underfunded and ill-equipped to fulfill its mission.

I spoke in strong opposition to this bill when we considered it in the Appropriations Committee because it would have gutted the agencies funded in this bill and resulted in up to 1,700 employees being laid off.

This would mean RIFs and lay-offs of the hardworking men and women who work for the Capitol Police, the Library of Congress, GAO, GPO and the other agencies in this bill. To many of you, these are faceless individuals whose work may not be directly felt.

However, to me, not only are many of these individuals my constituents, but they are also devoted Federal employees who have foregone higher paying jobs in the private sector because they believe in public service. They have families and mortgages and do good

work. They have been subjected to possible RIFs because this Congress wants to provide a tax cut rather than maintain the current funding and cost-of-living adjustment for these agencies.

On another matter, the proposed amendment to establish a lockbox on this bill is a budgetary gimmick. It has the gloss of sounding fiscally responsible, but it actually ties the hands of this Committee and forces irresponsible cuts in order to provide a large tax cut.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and look for a better approach to funding the agencies in this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXCELLENCE OF ANDERSON HIGH SCHOOL'S NATIONAL ENERGY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TEAM

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anderson High School's NEED (National Energy Education Development) Project Team. Anderson High School is in Ohio's Second Congressional District, and its team was recognized as the Senior Level School of the Year by the NEED Project at the 2000 Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement. The NEED Project is a nonprofit education association dedicated to developing and distributing comprehensive, hands-on energy education programs to schools nationwide. NEED encourages and rewards student leadership by sponsoring a Youth Awards Program for Energy Achievement.

Anderson High School's NEED Project Team was chosen as the Senior Level School of the Year for its outstanding work to promote energy awareness through the design and delivery of objective, multi-sided energy education programs. The team participants are Jayne Everson, Steve Grindle, Matt Radcliffe, David Drabousky, Mike Jurek, and David Zitt. Also fundamental to the team's success are student webmasters William Hawkins III and Martine Lamy and student game designer Brian Huneke. The team, led by its dedicated faculty advisor, Jeff Rodriguez, traveled to Washington, D.C. to receive its award on June 26, 2000.

The work of Anderson High School's NEED Project Team includes: evaluation of energy conservation improvements at its school; research of scientific applications for solar energy; and the presentation of energy education workshops and carnivals at local elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges and universities.

The team also developed and implemented an outstanding website (www.LearnAboutEnergy.org) to raise energy awareness to thousands of students, educators, and others around the world in classrooms ranging from Australia to Switzerland. The material on its website focuses on objective energy related education for students in middle school. It features games that teach the fundamentals of energy, including "Energy

Jeopardy" and "What's My Name?"; an energy fact of the day; energy discussion boards; greeting cards about energy; and Internet broadcasts.

The website also provides valuable tools for teachers. It offers links to online energy facts and information on how to conserve energy at home; an online textbook; energy lesson plans; quizzes to test students' knowledge of different types of energy; PowerPoint presentations about energy; and contact information for additional teaching resources.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of Anderson High School's NEED Project Team. All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate these students and their advisor on receiving the Senior Level School of the Year award.

IN SUPPORT OF PASSAGE OF
MEDICARE COVERAGE OF VISION
REHABILITATION SERVICES (H.R.
2870)

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of passage of my bill, H.R. 2870, the Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Coverage Act. As Congress considers its health care initiatives, I would like to highlight a proposal that would help over 6 million seniors in the United States receive services necessary for maintaining their independence. The Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Coverage Act would provide access to vision rehabilitation services for Medicare beneficiaries who report some level of vision impairment and would end up saving Medicare funds.

H.R. 2870 would extend Medicare coverage to orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation teachers and low vision therapists. These professionals provide critical specialized rehabilitation services to help people with a vision impairment to be able to adjust the loss of sight and carry out normal daily activities. These services can restore a person's independence, improve their quality of life and save unnecessary suffering and expense by preventing injuries.

Vision loss has a powerful impact on one's daily life. It affects an individual's ability to communicate through reading and writing, manage simple household tasks, move around safely and handle medication. In addition, vision that cannot be corrected by medical or surgical intervention or corrective lenses, is a major contributing factor to falls among older adults which can cause hip fractures and other injuries.

The Framingham Eye Study reports that 18 percent of all hip fractures in the elderly are a result of vision impairment. This year alone, it is estimated that 63,000 hip fractures will occur due to vision loss. The cost incurred for the medical treatment of a hip fracture is \$35,000. Therefore, the total estimated cost of medical treatment for hip fractures this year alone is \$2.2 billion. Conservative estimates illustrate that 20% of these hip fractures could have been prevented if elderly persons suffering from vision impairment had access to vision rehabilitation services. This would save